AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last full paragraph on page 12 of the Specification, beginning at line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

The wash preferably uses plain water at ambient temperature, but higher temperatures and/or aqueous-organic mixtures may be employed to obtain a more rapid or complete extraction, as long as the hydrophobic polymer component does not dissolve or swell appreciably under those conditions. If surfactants are added to the aqueous wash medium, they may deposit on the interior surface of the pores that are formed, and modify the wettability thereof. Similarly, functional materials such as ~~mordents~~ mordants, UV absorbers, antioxidants, etc., may be deposited in the pores from the wash medium. Washing may be carried out by any suitable means, such as spraying or immersion, optionally with agitation, and is conveniently carried out using apparatus of the type used for the processing of photographic film. The washed coating may be dried at ambient or moderately elevated temperature, and is then ready for use.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14 of the Specification, beginning at line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Alumina-based fillers (especially boehmite) find particular use in films intended for use in aqueous ink jet imaging, where it is believed that they act as ~~mordents~~ mordants for the dyes commonly used in aqueous inks. A preferred material is Cerasol CD™, supplied by Alcan Chemicals. It may be co-dispersed with the siliceous filler, and/or may be coated separately on top of the microporous film as an aqueous dispersion.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 16 of the Specification, beginning at line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

Other additives which may usefully be incorporated in the microporous films include surfactants, levelling agents, UV absorbers, antioxidants, free radical scavengers and ~~mordents~~ mordants, all of which are materials known in the prior art. UV absorbers, antioxidants, free radical scavengers and ~~mordents~~ mordants may improve the light-fastness and/or substantivity of

colorants (especially dyes) subsequently deposited on the films. Typical UV absorbers include benzotriazoles and o-hydroxybenzophenones, typical antioxidants include hindered phenols and phenidone, typical radical scavengers include hindered tertiary amines, and typical ~~mordents~~ mordants include quaternarized vinylpyridine polymers. Such materials may be added to the solution prior to coating, typically at loadings of up to 3 wt% of the Butvar B76™ or similar polymer.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 24 of the Specification, beginning at line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

A test pattern was printed on each of the microporous coatings using the Epson Stylus 820™ ink jet printer and the water-based black ink supplied with it, and the dry time and image quality monitored. The ~~2:1~~ 1:2 coating (0.7 μm pores) gave the fastest drying (<30 sec) and the best resolution. The coatings with smaller pores could not absorb the ink quickly enough, and flooded, while the coating with larger pores gave image spreading.

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 39, and replace with the following Abstract:

The present invention provides an ink accepting member comprising a support which is a sheet-form microporous material having a matrix consisting essentially of substantially water-insoluble thermoplastic organic polymer, finely divided substantially water-insoluble filler particles distributed throughout the matrix, and a network of interconnecting pores communicating substantially throughout the microporous material, wherein the support bears on at least one side a microporous organic polymer film comprising a hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer and having a network of pores which communicate with the pores in the support. The invention also provides an imaging method comprising the steps of imagewise depositing an ink comprising a colorant in a carrier fluid onto the microporous film of the ink accepting member, and heating the microporous film to seal the image.